



January 12, 2022

Mr. Charles W. Maguire  
Director, Water Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, Texas 75270

Re: Port of Corpus Christi Authority of Nueces County proposed Desalination Facility  
at Harbor Island, Texas

Dear Mr. Maguire:

On behalf of the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express my support for the Port of Corpus Christi Authority (Port Authority) draft discharge permit submitted to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The Port Authority undertook this endeavor in 2017 and began site studies and project development to find a solution to supply water to the Coastal Bend region. In March of 2018, the Port Authority applied for the TCEQ permit to construct one of the first proposed seawater desalination facilities at Harbor Island. When implemented, this facility will supply 50 million gallons a day of much-needed potable water to support the water supply in Nueces and San Patricio counties and will play an important role in helping to address future shortages and natural disasters.

On November 6, 2019, the TCEQ voted to refer the desalination facility permit to the State Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case hearing. TCEQ has found that the Port Authority's application meets all the requirements of the law and that it will be protective of the environment and human health. I understand the Port Authority has taken voluntary efforts to provide additional studies and due diligence, while conducting coordination meetings with key federal, state and community stakeholders.

I fully support the Port Authority's vision to provide an alternative and sustainable water source to help our residents and industrial partners meet their current and future water needs. The ability to begin construction of this facility now without further delays is critical to the health of the region.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John P. LaRue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "LaRue" clearly distinguishable.

John P. LaRue  
President & CEO